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4/8/03

PATENT APPLICATION
Q62668

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Takahiro ITO, et al.
Appln. No.: 09/886,119
Confirmation No.: 4996
Filed: June 22, 2001
For: PNEUMATIC TIRES

Group Art Unit: 3617

Examiner: TBA

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GROUP 3600

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney after making a reasonable inquiry, the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Gruskin
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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: March 28, 2003



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TC 1700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) that the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of a European Search Report dated March 7, 2003, in connection with counterpart application EP 01 30 5380. Applicants note that the first four (4) references cited in the European Search Report were submitted via the IDS filed January 29, 2003, and, therefore, duplicate copies are **not** being filed herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d); or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and, therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. However, inasmuch as a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) **can** be made, Applicants submit the same concurrently herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within thirty days from the date of issuance (March 7, 2003) of the aforementioned European Search Report and, therefore, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is also appended hereto.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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